



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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No 1465

ANTARCTIC CHASE

Food From the Biggest Animal Earth Has Ever Known

Of all the harvests now being gathered to meet the world's food problem perhaps none is more thrilling than that being taken from Antarctic waters. The 15,000-ton whaling-ship *Balaena*, a great floating factory, is in Antarctica now, receiving from a group of smaller whale-catchers the giant carcasses from which it will take oil for margarine, meat, liver extract, and other valuable foods. One of the scientists on the *Balaena* has sent us this dramatic description of a whale hunt.

At ten o'clock one night I was swung from the Factory Ship *Balaena* to the Whale Catcher *Terje VI*. The mate kindly offered me a berth on the settee in his tiny cabin, and I made the same preparations for bed as the rest of the crew—I removed my boots.

Soon after two I could feel that we were moving, and went up on the bridge. Already it was half-light, with a red glow along the eastern horizon. Behind us *Balaena* was enveloped in clouds of steam, her decks as busy as day, for there were ten whales lying aft and the night shift wanted to finish working up as many as possible before the end of their 12-hour shift.

The Chase Begins

The morning was bitter cold, and as *Terje VI* was headed into the breeze we pulled down the ear-flaps of our fur-lined caps, and blinked the tears out of our eyes as we looked out for the first whale.

I was below, drinking coffee, when suddenly the ship heeled over, the beat of her engines steadily increasing—the sign that a whale had been sighted. The catcher turned abruptly to chase it at full speed.

There were, I was told, four whales, but for a long time I could see nothing but the sea, the sky, and the icebergs; but the keen-eyed man at the wheel could identify them as Fin whales.

We took three of those whales—one at five o'clock, the second just before breakfast, and the last soon after.

When each was caught, air was pumped into its body to keep it afloat; and it was then left, marked by a flag, for us to collect later.

After towing those three back to *Balaena* we were given permission to catch one more whale. It was then lunch-time, and all the sunny afternoon we searched; but not a single whale could we see except Humpbacks, and they are protected by law.

While we were having supper the sudden surging forward of *Terje VI* told us that we were at last fortunate. Hurrying to the bridge I heard that two Blue whales had been sighted.

Now, the Blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived on the earth. He, or she—for the females are larger than the males—may be almost 100 feet long, and weigh well over 100 tons. Today the value of the oil and meat from such a whale is considerably over £1000. Here was a prize worth taking!

The Whale's Blowhole

The whales were heading into the drift ice, the larger pieces of which would have sunk the catcher had we struck them at full speed.

The sunset was magnificent, red and orange stretching half-way round the horizon, but the light was fading every minute.

The whales would break surface and "blow," one a few seconds after the other, a column of condensed breath being shot 20 feet into the air, with a noise like the puff of a train. The blowhole on top of the

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Formosan Fortitude

THE 48 WHO KEPT THE FAITH

Moving stories of the war continue to reach us. Here is one, sent home by a Presbyterian missionary, which tells of a little church in Formosa with a wonderful record of readiness to stand by its faith.

THE Japanese were in control of Formosa, and they knew that in other places Christian people had co-operated with Allied troops when they landed. So, in 1945, the Japanese authorities in Formosa decided to make a list of all the Christians on the island, in order to arrest them and put them to death immediately any Allied soldier arrived.

The Great Test

The minister of one small church, and his Elders, wondered what they ought to do. Should they hand in the list of their members as the Japanese police ordered? After some discussion they decided to destroy the old list, and to give everyone the chance to say whether or not he was willing for his name to go forward as a Christian. Everyone could choose afresh, and if anyone did not feel able to stand up to the test no pressure would be brought to bear. It was generally understood why the list was wanted.

By August 12, 1945, four days before the list was to be given in, 48 out of the 49 members of the Church had stated, in writing, that they wanted their names put down as Christians, even though this might bring them to death. The only missing one was a girl whose family were not Christians and persuaded her not to put her name down.

The members of this united church were not called upon to witness before the enemy, because on August 15 the unexpected news arrived of the surrender of the Japanese. But the knowledge of their readiness to take a public stand for what they believed is an encouragement to every Christian.

ZOO HOSTESSES



A group of some of the 14 hostesses who will receive visitors to the children's section of the London Zoo this season.

2000 Miles to School

UNDER a scholarship scheme 45 schoolchildren, two school teachers, and two school inspectors have travelled some 2000 miles across the Pacific to attend schools in New Zealand.

Twenty-five of the boys, and nine of the girls, and the two inspectors, came from Samoa; six boys, two girls, and the young teachers came from the Cook Islands; and the remaining children came from Niue Island.

The Cook Islands and Niue Island are dependencies of New

Zealand, while the islands known as Western Samoa have been administered by New Zealand since 1914, first on behalf of the League of Nations and now on behalf of the United Nations.

Some of the Samoan boys have learned mathematics so well that it is hoped to train them later as surveyors for work in their own country. The teachers and inspectors are studying teaching methods in schools attended by their kinsfolk, the New Zealand Maoris.

A CHASE IN ANTARCTIC SEAS

Continued from column 2

head remains open as the lungs are filled with air, to be closed tightly just as it submerges. This we could clearly see.

The whales would blow perhaps four times at intervals of about half a minute. Then, just as we got within range and the gunner prepared to shoot, they would go steeply down, to reappear ten minutes later far behind us. Round we would go, charging toward them at full speed, twisting among the more dangerous pieces of ice, hitting the smaller with a crash that made our little ship's light hull shudder.

The sea was so calm that as we got close we could see the whirlpools made by the mighty surges of the whales' tails as they swam near the surface. Where they had blown they left an oily "slick" upon the water.

At last we were within range, and all the watchers gave a great shout as the gunner fired and the harpoon flew out, plunged into the water and struck the whale's side. A second later there was a thud as the harpoon exploded!

Quicker than you could blink the whale dived; and the rope attached to the harpoon ran out, yard after yard. Gradually a brake was applied, so that the whole of the line should not be taken. Then, as the whale tired, and ceased pulling, our winch began to wind back the rope.

Some minutes later the whale broke surface 200 yards away, only just visible in the dusk. Every muscle in its body was in violent action, lashing the water into foam. "The whale is dying," said the helmsman. We lay there, silently watching.

HERDING DEER BY HELICOPTER



This remarkable photograph of running deer was taken from the air during an experiment in New York State with the use of a low-flying helicopter for herding deer away from crops.

What is This Budget? A NEW KING FOR THE GREEKS

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION

ANOTHER Budget Day has come. The Chancellor of the Exchequer reveals *how* he intends to spend public money and estimates *how much* money he will collect in the coming year. This affects, of course, everyone's pocket.

We all understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be unable to meet the vast national expenditure—on the schools, the armed forces, the



The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the red Budget bag

police, the Courts of Justice and a thousand other things—unless citizens provided the money.

The Budget tells each one of

us how much he will have to give up to the State in the form of direct or indirect taxation. This Budget business, therefore, is not unlike making up home accounts which try to figure out how much money will be coming into the family in a week, or perhaps a month or a quarter, and how much we can afford to spend on food, clothing, rent, schools, newspapers, cinemas, and so on. The same process, but on a much bigger scale, applies to the State.

Budget literally denotes a bag (in old French a bag is bougette); in reality it is a red leather bag in which the Chancellor holds the documents of his Budget speech. In a broader sense Budget means an attempt to visualise the nation's plans, duties, and progress as they are expressed by the spending of public money.

A DICTIONARY OF BUDGET TERMS

Consols. Before 1914, but not now, Consols (Consolidated Annuities) were the most important part of the Funded Debt (which see). Introduced in 1751 they now earn a fixed rate of interest of 2½ per cent.

Cost-of-living Subsidies. Payment from the Exchequer—that is, a public subsidy to keep the cost of essential foods down.

Customs. Tax paid on goods brought into the country—tea, sugar, tobacco, wines, and so on.

Deflation. Reduction in money in circulation resulting in lower prices (see Inflation).

Direct Taxes. Money which citizens are obliged to pay to the State according to income and size of family.

Dollar area. Area of the United States and other countries of America where payment for goods has to be made in dollars.

Exchequer. Government Office having the care of public revenue. The word comes from Latin Scaccarium, a chess-board, later a chequered counting table.

Excise Tax. Indirect tax (which see) imposed on goods produced in this country—beer, spirits, saccharin, matches.

Fiduciary Issue. That part of banknote circulation which is not backed by gold. On March 26, 1946, the amount of fiduciary issue of the Bank of England was £1450,000,000, the amount of gold was only £247,833. Fiduciary comes from the Latin word for faith.

Floating Debt. Short-term Government obligation such as Treasury Bills issued to cover its temporary need for ready cash. In the week after Easter the Government has invited the public to buy £170,000,000 worth of Treasury Bills to be repaid early in July 1947. This procedure is repeated over and over again throughout the year, hence the term Floating Debt.

Funded Debt. The major part of the National Debt is funded, that is, issued as documents which are repayable only if and

when the Government desires it. These documents or securities yield interest, that is, periodic payments from the Government for the use of the public's money.

Hard Currency. A relative term applied in this country to currency in short supply issued by countries which can offer goods in great demand. For example, the dollar and the Swiss franc are hard currency. In Denmark the pound sterling is hard currency.

Income Tax. See Direct Taxes.

Indirect Taxes. Taxes imposed on consumption of certain goods such as cigarettes, tobacco, beer. Their payment depends on an individual's habits and not his wealth as in Direct Taxes.

Inflation. A condition in which the amount of money in the pockets of citizens is much greater than the amount of goods in shops. Rising prices and lowering values of money are signs of inflation.

Inland Revenue. This has two meanings. One, the name of the organisation collecting all sorts of taxes; the other, the total of all direct and indirect taxes (except Customs and Excise).

National Debt. Financial obligation of a Government secured by the general credit of a nation and not by any special assets such as, say, land, ships, or railways. The two principal types of the National Debt are Funded and Floating debts.

Soft Currency. Opposite to hard currency (which see).

Stamp Duty. Indirect Tax (which see) imposed on written documents of legal value such as contracts or cheques. Payment is denoted by affixing stamps.

Sterling area. Name given to the British Empire countries (except Canada), and some other countries such as Egypt and Iceland, who pooled their holdings of dollars to buy jointly in the dollar area.

Surtax. Direct Tax (which see) levied on the very high incomes, the highest paying as much as 19s 6d in the pound.

WE owe so much in science, art, and literature, to Ancient Greece that even today we preserve a glowing interest in that nation to whose throne King Paul has been called, at the age of 45, by the death of his brother, King George II.

Close as is the connection between our two countries, it might have been yet closer; Greece might have had as king either a British prince or earl.

For more than three centuries Greece lay under the rule of Turkey. When early last century she rose against that oppressor all British hearts were stirred and we sent our great sailor genius, Lord Dundonald, to fight for her, while Byron went out gladly to die in her cause. Regaining her freedom, Greece made an unhappy choice for her first king, Otto, a Bavarian; but she drove him out and then elected the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's second son, a sovereign. This prince could not accept the throne, so the Greeks, still resolved to have an Englishman, offered the throne to the grandfather of the present Earl of Derby, but he preferred an English home to a European throne.

Failing a Briton, the Greeks elected as king the brother of the lady who became our Queen Alexandra. He was King George I of Greece. The British people will wish his grandson, the new King Paul, a successful reign.

Back to Greece

THE islands in the Aegean Sea known as the Dodecanese have said goodbye to the British military authorities who administered them after the defeat of Germany. A Greek Military Administration has now taken them over.

The Dodecanese have a long history. In the tenth century B.C. they were colonised by the Dorians, and it was during their rule that Chares, of Lindus, built the giant bronze statue known as the Colossus of Rhodes. Ranking as one of the Seven Wonders, this fine figure of Apollo, over a hundred feet high, guarded the entrance of Rhodes Harbour.

This masterpiece was completed about 280 B.C., but it collapsed in an earthquake about sixty years later. The bronze giant lay prone for about a thousand years, and then the metal was sold, 900 camels being used to carry it away!

About 150 B.C. the Dodecanese became a part of the Roman Empire. Later, they belonged in turn to the Byzantine Empire, Venice, Genoa, the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, the Turks, and, from 1912 onward, to Italy.

HENRY FORD

HENRY FORD has passed on at 83. As a boy he toiled on a little farm. "I hoed ten thousand miles," he once said. He invented the world-famous Ford car and became the largest motor-car manufacturer of his time.

He maintained a corps of social workers to look after the welfare of his employees. In 1915 he sailed to Europe in his "peace ship" to try to end the First World War.

WORLD NEWS REEL

ANTARCTIC DEPRESSION? A new meteorological observatory with a radio station on Gamma Island in the Antarctic has been established by an Argentine expedition.

People in Britain can now phone Germany. The cost is 10s for three minutes.

It is expected that 5000 British youths will attend the World Festival of Youth at Prague this summer.

RED SALMON? Ten million tins of salmon and two-and-a-half million tins of crab were announced by the Food Minister as the first food contract with Russia.

Thirteen U.S. scientists plan to fly to Brazil to set up a camp 400 miles north of Rio to make comprehensive observations of the eclipse of the Sun on May 20. They will take photographs of the eclipse from a plane at 30,000 feet.

A Douglas DC 6 aircraft broke the record from Los Angeles to New York, flying the 2453 miles in 6 hours, 47 minutes, with an average speed of 361 m.p.h., beating the existing record by 45 minutes.

HOME NEWS REEL

NEVER GIVE IN. The Mayor of Birmingham has spoken of a young factory worker who lost four fingers of his right hand and had a finger from his other hand grafted on to make it useful again.

At the end of February there were more than ten-and-a-half million wireless receiving licences in Great Britain.

Mr Thomas Carr of Jarrow nursed the broken wing of a swan which fell in the yard of a steel-works, and when it recovered the bird was taken three miles to a lake. The next day it was back at the yard.

GOODBYE. Bolton people lined the streets recently to cheer the passage of the last tramcar along the only remaining tramway route.

The propeller of a B.O.A.C. flying-boat which has been in constant use for ten years has been presented to its makers, De Havilland Propellers. Its flights equal 200 times round the world and it has made about 1488 million revolutions.

Norfolk Education Committee has approved a plan estimated to cost £12,000,000, which will involve the building of 164 new schools.

COAL GOAL BEATEN. Miners at Snowdown Colliery, Kent, beat their weekly target of 9500 tons by over fifty per cent.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

ABBEY MEMORIAL TO B.P. A plaque to the memory of Lord Baden-Powell, Founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements, is to be unveiled in Westminster Abbey on St George's Day (April 23), by the Duke of Gloucester. The plaque will be near the Unknown Warrior's tomb.

The Scouts and Guides are to hold an International Folk Dance Festival in July, when overseas teams will come from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Holland, Norway, Switzerland, and the U.S.

PEACE. After revolution and bloodshed lasting 19 months the Lingardjati Agreement has at last been signed between the Dutch and the Indonesians.

At Bombay a Himalayan Yogi spent 24 hours in a concrete pit claimed to be airtight. A doctor stated that ordinarily a person could not stay in the pit longer than two or three hours.

As soon as teachers and accommodation are available the school-leaving age in New Zealand is to be raised from 15 to 16.

REMEMBRANCE. Twenty thousand people gathered at Bruneval when General de Gaulle unveiled a memorial to commemorate the Combined Operations raid in 1942.

The Bombay Government have started a four-year prohibition plan. For two days a week no intoxicating liquor may be sold in the province.

The Bahamas have sent a gift of honey and tinned tomatoes to this country.

CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL. A site near the Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens has been offered by the Ministry of Works for a memorial to the children of all countries who were war victims.

Many Kent villages are considering the provision of playing fields as war memorials.

At a sale in London two old pennies were sold for £72. One was inscribed God preserve London, and the other God preserve New England.

JOINT BUT NO VEG! Owing to shortage of vegetables Gravesend greengrocers' annual dinner was postponed.

A first edition of Alice in Wonderland fetched £1200 at a recent London sale.

At Icklingham in Suffolk a ploughman uncovered some pottery in what has since proved to be a Saxon cemetery.

DAMPER. Rainfall during March exceeded that for any March since before 1815.

Rush-mat making, one of the oldest crafts of Norfolk, has been successfully revived at Aldeby.

February road deaths totalled 223, the lowest figure ever recorded for this month. The number of child deaths, 23, was the lowest for any month.

Lord Kemsley has given £100,000 to help the work of light aeroplane and glider clubs.

At the Stratford-on-Avon Shakespeare Festival the part of Juliet was taken by 18-year-old Daphne Slater, whose performance in this very difficult part was praised by the critics.

Over 700 King's Scouts and holders of gallantry awards from all parts of Great Britain will attend a National Scout Service at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on April 27.

KILTED SCOUTS. Dressed in kilts and led by their own pipe band, 700 Scottish Boy Scouts will be going to the World Jamboree in France this August. Kilts always create a great stir among Scouts of other countries, and the Scots will have to guard their kilts very closely from souvenir hunters!

Giants in These Days

LAST month we wrote of our giant human ancestor, *Pithecanthropus robustus*, the owner of the massive jaw found in Java. But there have been giants in more recent times, and not long ago the King met one at Comondale in South Africa. This was an Afrikaner named Cornelius Mostert, a bearded giant 7 ft 3 ins tall. Mr Mostert is 65 and a Boer War veteran. The King had his photograph taken standing beside his outsize subject.

Mr Mostert, however, might have been nicknamed Shorty if he had ever met the famous Russian giant, Machnov, who was 9 ft 3 ins in height, about

nine inches higher than the ceiling in an average room. John Middleton of Hale, Lancashire, who was introduced to James I, was also reputed to be 9 ft 3 ins.

Mr Mostert would have found himself being looked down on, too, had he met his namesake, Cornelius MacGrath, whose skeleton, preserved in Ireland, measures 7 ft 9 ins—nearly a head taller than Mr Mostert. Another Irish giant of the same height whose skeleton has been preserved was O'Brien Charles Byrne, who lived in the 18th century. An inch taller was Patrick Cottar, who lived in the same period and whose skeleton was measured at Bristol in 1909.

AWAY WENT THE LION

A big and hungry lion broke into a ranch in the Northern Transvaal and at once made a savage attack on a cow which was quietly grazing. A bull near at hand came to its rescue and succeeded in tossing the lion up in the air. As soon as the King of Beasts recovered its legs it ran away, utterly defeated and looking scared to death.

The Amateur Cup Final

THE Final of the Amateur Cup will be played on Saturday, when the Isthmian League clubs, Leytonstone and Wimbledon, meet on the Arsenal Football Club's ground at Highbury.

It is fitting that Leytonstone should reach the Final for the first time, for it is their Diamond Jubilee year, and in the Semi-final they beat the Cup-holders, Barnet. Wimbledon reached the Final for the second time by beating Bishop Auckland, who have won the Cup seven times.

"Shetlands" For Export

TWENTY Shetland ponies rounded-up recently on a snowbound Scottish farm are now on their way to America to join Barnum and Bailey's circus.

Bred by Mr A. Davidson, on an Aberdeenshire farm, the ponies are part of very considerable herds of Shetlands spread throughout Scotland which are allowed to run wild until wanted. The twenty ponies made a 150-mile trip by road to Glasgow, where they boarded the liner Elysia for America, where they will receive their circus training.

Although the demand for Shetlands is generally from private owners who wish their children to learn to ride while young, there is a continuous demand for troupes from circus owners. Recently nine ponies for a Danish circus flew to Copenhagen, being the first consignment of Shetland ponies to leave their native land by air.

BIRDS KEEP UP THEIR NUMBERS

NATURALISTS have been estimating, so far as their observations allow, the probable cost in British birds of the hardships to which these poor creatures have been exposed this year. A dismal total of casualties is probable, but, sad as is the story, it does not justify the statement that has been published suggesting that our bird population will remain permanently reduced. Nature has a way of repairing her ravages.

The powers of increase by birds are astonishing. If we consider the numbers of eggs produced by some of the birds of this country we see at once how quickly depleted stocks may be renewed in full force. The thrush, linnet, and blackbird lay from 4 to 6 eggs, the titmouse 7 to 8, the goldfinch 4 to 5, the robin 5 to 7, the wren 6 to 8, the pheasant 1 to 15, and the partridge as many as 20; moreover, many of our native birds rear two or even three nests of young each favourable summer.

Thus there is ample provision against extinction and permanent reduction of numbers, and before summer ends the gaps in this delightful winged community should largely have been made good.

WARNED BY THE ABBEY BELLS

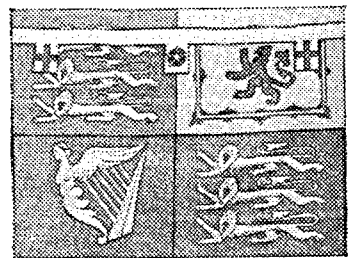
IN unhappy far-off days the bells of the Benedictine Abbey of Crowland used to ring out in warning as watchers in its tower detected the approach of hostile forces. But recently they rang out for quite a different kind of invader. They were warning 3000 Lincolnshire folk that waters from a breach in Deeping High Bank were threatening to flood thousands of acres of rich arable land and sweep into their homes.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS



ON April 21, 1926, a baby girl was born at Bruton Street, London. She was the first daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, and five weeks later was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace. On Tuesday next Princess Elizabeth, Heir-Presumptive to the Throne, will celebrate her 21st birthday, and the whole Empire will join with a host of friendly peoples throughout the world in wishing long life and happi-

ness to this gracious young lady. Our pictures show Princess Elizabeth with her father in South Africa during an informal moment of the Royal Tour; and her personal Standard.



A Ring of Flame

An American workman tests the huge gas-ring used for heating the steel tyres of locomotives before they are fitted to the wheels.

Helicopter Pilot No 1

To Wing Commander Reginald Brie has come the honour of being the first pilot to be granted a helicopter licence by the Royal Aero Club.

Wing Commander Brie has flown rotor aircraft for many years, having been associated with Juan de la Cierva in the development of the autogiro. In 1940 Brie formed the first R.A.F. autogiro squadron. Then from America came the first successful helicopter, the machine with power-driven rotating vanes which can rise and descend vertically, and Brie became the first British helicopter pilot.

The first Royal Aero Club licence for aeroplane pilots was granted in 1910 to Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon, who is now Lord Brabazon.

TWO MOTORS IN A MATCHBOX

ON show for the first time at the forthcoming British Industries Fair will be the smallest electrical motor in the world; two will go into a matchbox.

These motors are called "electrotors," and the smallest of the four types is about one inch long and only three-sixteenths of an inch wide.

Electrotors consume less current than is required for a torch bulb, yet will drive electric razors, windscreen wipers, hair clippers, and scientific instruments.

Road Safety For Dogs

THE scheme to train dogs in Safety First road drill announced by the National Canine Defence League, and mentioned in the C.N. recently, is about to be launched. The first series of lessons will begin on April 29 at Trinity Hall, London.

Dog owners will be shown by demonstrations how to train their dogs to walk at heel with or without a leash, to wait at the kerb when crossing the road, to sit when their owner is standing still, and other safety precautions. The training is simple, and fifteen minutes a day devoted to instruction should be sufficient for most dogs.

If the classes in London prove successful, further classes will be held in other cities and towns.

BRAVO!

FREDERICK EMERY, a brilliant young British pianist, who has been blind from birth, visited the Wigmore Hall in London every day before his first public recital recently, in order to practise walking on the stage so that he would not disclose his handicap to the audience. This was due to his firm determination to succeed solely on his merits as a musician and not as a blind person in need of sympathy.

On the night of the concert he was loudly applauded for his brilliant performance. His entire repertoire has been memorised from braille manuscripts.

ZOO GOES TO THE CHILDREN

THE boys and girls of the Crippled Children's Hospital, of Marple, Cheshire, had an unforgettable visit recently. They have not the strength to visit the zoo at Manchester, not far away, so the zoo came to them. The keepers brought all sorts of little animals, the favourites, of course, being the monkeys, which caused boundless delight.

Increase in State Scholarships

THE number of scholarships to universities awarded by the State to students from secondary schools has been increased from 360 to 750 a year, beginning this year. As in the past, the scholarships will be awarded on the results of the Higher School Certificate examination.

In addition to the 750, there are to be 120 scholarships of a new kind. Of these 100 will be for part-time students at Colleges of Further Education and be awarded on the recommendation of college principals and the advice of a selection committee. Twenty scholarships will be awarded to students over 25 who have not been to a university but who show special promise. These candidates will be recommended by local education authorities, or recognised bodies for adult education, and finally chosen by a selection committee.

LITTLE LONDONERS



In the picture above, taken in the Chung Hwa School at Pennyfields in London's East End, writing and spelling in the native characters seems to be a Chinese puzzle for little Var Wong, who has never been to China. On the left, young Michael Angelus has donned the national costume for a festival at the Greek Cathedral in Bayswater.

A HUMANE RABBIT TRAP

THE RSPCA has developed a new humane rabbit trap which is proving most effective. It is called the Sawyer trap, after its inventor, Mr Sawyer, and it always kills rabbits instantaneously and without pain. When these traps are produced in sufficient quantities there will be no reason for using the detestable, steel-toothed gin trap.

Set just inside the rabbit's burrow, where it is camouflaged with earth and twigs, this trap invariably catches the rabbit on his neck, killing him instantly; so there is no danger of his being caught by any other part of his body and held, suffering for hours, as is nearly always the

case with the gin or even with the looped snare.

The problem of the RSPCA, one of its officials told the CN, has been to make the Sawyer trap as cheap as the gin. For people in the country have complained that former humane rabbit traps were too expensive. Gin traps cost from 2s 9d to 7s 6d, and the RSPCA aims at selling the Sawyer trap within this price range.

Recently an RSPCA expert demonstrated the Sawyer trap before a select committee of the House of Commons, so we may hope that before very long there will be a law forbidding the use of the barbarous gin.

Walston School Beats the Blizzards

ALTHOUGH they were cut off from school for several weeks by snowdrifts, pupils of the tiny Lanarkshire school at Walston remained within range of their teacher's voice and had regular home lessons.

The school's only teacher, Miss Agnes Scott, telephoned many of her pupils from her isolated schoolhouse, and children in farms, on receiving instructions by phone, passed word to other children living nearby. New lessons were out of the question, but Miss Scott urged her pupils to revise and to study their geography by finding out on a map places mentioned in the news-

papers and on the radio. When severe flooding was reported from the Fens she told the children by telephone to learn all they could about this part of England. She also advised them to observe the effects of the blizzards and to prepare an outline of their experiences for a composition to be written on their return to school.

During this spell only one girl, a ten-year-old, managed to reach school. She left her home a mile away and dug her way to school through drifts.

On their return to school not only had the children revised their lessons but several had done pages of sums!

A JAPANESE RIP VAN WINKLE

A MAN who only recently heard that the war is over, is a Japanese artillery captain named Sato, who has been living with natives on a small island off the New Guinea coast since 1943.

In March of that year, he related, the convoy with which he was sailing was sunk by American bombers. He and a few others escaped to an island where they attacked some American troops. He was the only survivor of this attack, and

a man took him in a canoe to another land, where he lived with the natives for four years. Then a native policeman heard he was there and arrested him. He was taken to Samarai in Papua, where he was surprised to hear that the war was over.

When told that Japan had been defeated he asked if his parents had been made slaves. He was astonished to learn that the Allies had not introduced slavery into Japan!

April 19, 1947

In the Bad Old Days

THE struggle to prepare our boys and girls for a fuller, richer life has been a long one. In this never-to-be-forgotten month of April we can take heart by reminding ourselves of what educationists thought of Britain's schools 100 years ago as revealed by this extract from The Times of 1847, reprinted in that newspaper recently:

We believe the education of this country to be a miserable, make-believe, superficial, illusory system. It is one great quackery from beginning to end. It does not stand the test of half a year's trial on any one subject, sacred or secular... The children come out pretty nearly as incapable, as giftless, as mere children, as mere parrots as they went in. The unwieldy size of the better schools for the poor, possessing, as they do, only one efficient teacher for each sex, the scores and scores of children that stagnate in the lower classes, the indifferent character of the smaller schools, and the fact that multitudes go to no school at all, all conspire to the result which criminal and other statistics too fully corroborate that, town or country, ignorance is the rule—proper training an exception. Taken as a whole, England is an ignorant nation, and likely to remain so unless something is done...

We have moved far indeed since those days of overcrowded "ragged" schools.

Round the Museums

ANCIENT CLOTHES-PRESS

EVEN in the 16th century, when the tailor delivered a new suit it had knife-edged creases, but they were not achieved in a



few moments. It was a most laborious task to get a good crease with this primitive press, which is in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. The candle stand, which is made of stone, was specially designed for their craft.

BINDING FOR A BOOK OF MEMORY

A MEMORIAL book to be placed in St. Paul's Cathedral in honour of Americans who lost their lives in Europe during the Second World War is to be bound in the best leather obtainable. The 300-year-old tannery firm of E. & J. Richardson, of Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne, will supply it from a special goat-skin which comes from the Cape of Good Hope.

The Editor's Table

APRIL MIRACLE

APRIL 1947 will stand in the history of this country as a miracle month. Dreams have come true this month. A fairer day dawns for every British child. From now on no child will leave school before he is fifteen—a precious extra year which many idealists in the past have hoped for and worked for.

It might have come in 1932, was actually decided on in 1936, postponed for three years to build the necessary classrooms, and then apparently doomed to destruction by Hitler. But no! Let it be recorded to the everlasting glory of our country that a few weeks before D-Day, while in the throes of the greatest war of all time, the British Parliament passed the most comprehensive children's charter in British history. There was faith! There was vision!

AGAIN came a postponement for one year. Many were the gloomy forebodings about juvenile labour, the need for more young workers in the factories. But the longer, wiser view prevailed, and April 1947 was confirmed as the month of fulfilment. The great plan now goes forward. Believing our fundamental wealth lies in properly educated and efficient citizens, we have set out to give the coming generations that finest possible equipment—spiritually, mentally, and physically. April 1947—this month of spring after a bleak and cruel winter—sets the stage for the next twenty years in national education.

MEANWHILE, the miracle of money, buildings, and teachers is being daily performed to meet the needs of the children. Over 70,000 workers have been allocated to provide the temporary classrooms, the canteens, and the light buildings needed for the new students. Over 300,000 children have eventually to be accommodated, taught, and fed for an extra year. In emergency colleges 10,000 teachers, mostly ex-Service-men and women, are in training for their life jobs in the new schools; and all who are competent to judge praise their keenness and quality. At a time when every worker is needed for vital national work Britain is deliberately investing much of its youth and money in a plan which can show no results for many years. It is a practical display of faith in the future of our nation.

No one assumes that merely adding to the school-leaving age will cure all our national ills, or give everyone an appreciation of whatsoever things are lovely and of good report. But this April miracle is a start towards the promised land of true education where every citizen can claim his true inheritance and can learn to put into life more than he takes out.

The Best School

WHEN the new Minister of Education, Mr George Tomlinson, spoke to the Parents' National Educational Union the other day, he told of a conversation which he had had with a certain professor.

In response to a suggestion from this learned gentleman that probably Eton was the finest school in England, Mr Tomlinson replied that he thought Rishton Wesleyan the finest of all—because he went there!

Mr Tomlinson is right. June Jones, of Smith Street Primary, and Reggie Robinson, of Brightville County Grammar, rightly make similar claims for their own schools. They are all scholars of the best school!

The Young Idea

WE have been turning the pages of one of our youngest contemporaries—just a year old—and have been more than a little interested, for its purpose is to encourage young writers and artists and give them the joy of seeing their work in print.

Pavilion (The Schools' Journal) it is called, and besides circulating in nearly a thousand schools it appears on the book-stalls for the benefit of all who like a good shillingsworth. And, indeed, although the articles, short stories, poems, and drawings in Pavilion are almost entirely the work of schoolboys, they all show real talent and reflect great promise.

The CN, already well aware that there are a lot of clever schoolboys about, is always pleased to see young people getting their chance; and, congratulating the editor on his good-looking infant, trusts that it will come safely through all its teething troubles and live to make its name widely known.

SPRING'S OPEN BOOK

A JOYOUS Book of Spring Lies open, writ in blossoms. William Allingham

Under the Ed

VEGETARIANS are, usually even-tempered. Never have a bone to pick with anyone.

A SCHOOL for bakers has been started at Gravesend. When the head-master enters the bread rises.

MANY people in America believe in fortune-telling. Still more believe in fortune-making.

A MAN says he knows how to pass the time. Must be quick.

A LADY was described as a social climber. Wanted a family tree.



FEW grown-ups like filling up forms. But most schoolboys do.

THINGS SAID

MY recipe for long life: Hard work, which gives a good appetite. *Edwin J. Heales, of Bow, aged 100*

TELEVISION will be established in the next few years as a household word.

Sir Clifford Paterson

THE United Kingdom's present difficulties are due to the fact that she has fought with, sparing will the battles of many other peoples as well as her own.

Mr Chifley, Prime Minister of Australia

COULD never understand why so much reliance was placed in the strict training of footballers, and why it seemed to be dispensed with in soldiers, statesmen, and cooks.

Lord Mancroft

The Human Touch

WHATEVER may be done by local authority or Government, there are always people who want to do a little more; during the war voluntary effort throughout supplemented what was done officially. This country will, I believe, never become an exclusive omnipotent State. We shall always have alongside the great range of public service the voluntary services which humanise it and bring it down from the general to the particular.

Democracy does not mean that we should sit down and have things done for us; it means that we should do things for ourselves.

Mr Atlee, speaking at Toynbee Hall, London

Jewels

DIAMOND, Topaz, Amethyst, I cannot buy. But have I missed so much when I may freely gleam
A bunch of daffodils, rain-clean?
R. W. Povey

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If a distant relation can live next door



OUR present difficulties should be regarded as opportunities. Some people regard them as opportunities for grumbling.

AN acre of land normally produces 300 boxes of Scotch kale, says a writer. How does it grow in boxes?

SOME children like to take examinations. Others wish they would take them away.

AN exhibition is said to have new ideas on every side. What is behind it?

IT is easy to cut down a tree. Harder to cut it up.

Entertainments to Suit All Purses

AN ambitious scheme to provide in several cities centres where entertainment will be provided at popular prices has been launched in London.

A non-profit-making organisation, the National Theatre Club has as chairman Mr Alfred Barnes, Minister of Transport. The Royalty Theatre, London, and some adjoining properties have been acquired and the aim is to erect under the one roof a theatre, cinema, concert and dance halls, a restaurant, and a residential club.

This will be the headquarters of the National Theatre Club, and with similar premises in the main provincial cities it should be possible for the best productions—drama, opera, ballet, musical, and so on—to be enjoyed by far bigger audiences.

The new scheme is one which, obviously, will take long to develop, but we wish it well.

The Qualities of Patience

PATIENCE is the guardian of faith, the preserver of peace, the cherisher of love, the teacher of humility; patience governs the flesh, strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, extinguishes envy, subdues pride; she bridles the tongue, refrains the hand, tramples upon temptation, endures persecutions, consummates martyrdom; patience produces unity in the church, loyalty in the state, harmony in families and societies; she comforts the poor and moderates the rich; she makes us humble in prosperity, cheerful in adversity, unmoved by calumny and reproach; she teaches us to forgive those who have injured us, and to be the first in asking forgiveness of those whom we have injured; she delights the faithful, and invites the unbelieving; she adorns the woman, and approves the man; is loved in a child, praised in a young man, admired in an old man; she is beautiful in either sex and every age.

Bishop Horne

HOME

IN all the world, no place so dear as Home;
Of all earth's vastness, *this* is holy ground,
For here, within the sacredness of Home,
Our noblest, sweetest memories are found.

Home is the place where each for others serves
And self is slain, that kith and kin may live,
And, in a joyous comradeship sublime,
All that is best, for good of all, we give.

Home is the hallowed cradle of Mankind,
Where life and love and character are cast,
A welcome haven sheltering from life's storms;
The goal of every longing heart at last.

T. B. Gleave

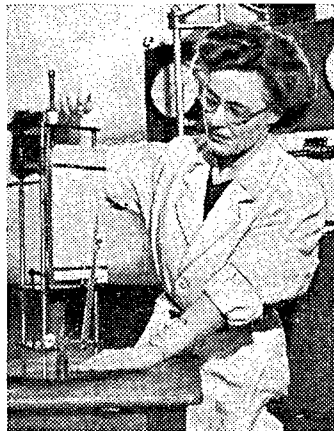
WHERE BETTER ROADS BEGIN

BESIDE the Bath Road at Harmondsworth, in Middlesex, is the Road Research Laboratory, where a scientific study is made of the construction and maintenance of better and safer roads.

All kinds of new and old materials for surfacing highways are tried at the laboratory, and tests are made to prove their ability to withstand not only the wear and tear of all types of traffic, but extremes of climate. Road engineers from all over the world seek information from the laboratory concerning road materials that are suitable for hot, cold, wet, and dry lands.

A good road for modern vehicles must have a surface which will prevent skids, as well as being smooth and durable. On the public highway which runs past the laboratory sections of the surface have been laid with a variety of materials to prove their properties under the normal traffic of an arterial road.

Among the scientific workers are twenty girls, who are engaged in chemistry, photography, and



Soil-testing apparatus in the Road Research Laboratory

so on. The girl in our picture is testing a sample of soil from the site of a new by-pass, for in building a road the foundation is, of course, as important as the surface.

A Window Mystery

KNOLE HOUSE, the lovely 15th-century mansion at Sevenoaks, Kent, which Lord Sackville has presented to the National Trust, is said to possess 365 windows, one for each day of the year. But we have never found anyone who had counted the windows and so could be sure of the total, and there are other English houses with the legendary distinction of 365 windows. Some mystic element seems to have been associated in former times with such eccentricity.

Be that as it may, Knole House must have paid heavily for its multitude of windows, for from 1697 until 1851 English houses having more than six windows were taxed, so much a window, and in that period the levy was increased eight times. Although thousands of windows were bricked up in order to avoid the tax, there remained at the end some 6000 houses with more than 50 windows each, some 250,000 houses which paid tax on ten and upwards, and 725,000 houses on at least seven windows each. The window tax in its last year yielded £1,856,000, and Knole must have been one of the chief contributors.

Louis Pasteur the Immortal

A PASTEUR Exhibition opened at the Science Museum at South Kensington illustrates the noble work which the great Louis Pasteur did for the world as well as the work which is still being done by Pasteur Institutes all over the world.

Louis Pasteur's name will always be a great one because of what he was as well as what he did. What he did was to give science and civilisation a knowledge of the chief maladies which have affected men and animals; a knowledge of the means by which the body may either be protected against these diseases or the poison neutralised when once in the body.

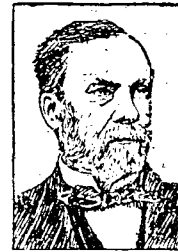
A third disclosure may be added as the forerunner of the other two; a knowledge of the true nature of fermentations to which he was led by study of diseases of the vine, one of two staple industries of France, the other being the cultivation of the silkworm. Pasteur saved both vine and silkworm for France.

Truth About the Germ

Of more universal benefit was his identification of the germ of disease or, as he called it, the microbe. The infant now inoculated against diphtheria, and his elders against typhoid, or in some hoped-for future remedy against influenza or the common cold, will find that Louis Pasteur had a hand in the bestowal of the blessing. Not that he alone did it; others worked and strove as well, but he was the man who established the truth about the germ—that it was a living thing born from a living parent.

The great French scientist spent years warring against disappointment and unbelief, but at last he dissipated all doubt and all denial. From this was born the knowledge that the dust of a hospital ward can be as deadly as that of the desert.

Pasteur's treatment of the silkworm disease, specially illustrated at South Kensington, is typical of his methods and of himself. Just 80 years ago an epidemic was ruining the industry of the cultivation of the silkworm and 3500 proprietors in the Alais arrondissement had appealed to the government for help. So Senator Dumas wrote to the only man, Louis Pasteur, and anxiously asked him to undertake the study. Pasteur replied that he had never touched a silkworm, but he would do it. So, beginning with learning all



that was known about it, and what was not known about the disease, he set out for Alais.

The disease began with the appearance of tiny black spots rather like pepper grains on the eggs, the chrysalis, and the moth. The name given to it by the cultivators was pébrine, from the patois word pébré, for pepper. Pasteur pushed on till he was sure that wherever there was disease there was the black corpuscle. So far so good, but then came a serious setback. Some of his diseased silkworms were without the pébré. So he had to begin again. At last he knew that there was a second disease, much less well-known, flacherie. Two years more of work and then at last all causes were known; the silkworm disease was eradicated and the silk industry of Lyons saved.

This, however, it not all the exhibition seeks to teach. It illustrates the methods of visual education through pictures and models now used in France. But Pasteur learned without them because of the zeal for exact knowledge and the devotion to truth and goodness which was his birthright.

The Captain Comes Home

AFTER 30 years of flying, 20 of them as an airline captain, Captain F. D. Travers of B.O.A.C. retired from flying duties the other day.

Captain Travers learned to fly in 1917 with the old Royal Flying Corps, and was a fighter pilot in the First World War. Since then he has piloted planes for Imperial Airways and B.O.A.C.

He has to his credit 19,100 flying hours, and has covered about 2,750,000 miles without one accident, or one of his passengers ever being injured.

Captain Travers's last trip before retiring was in Britain's biggest flying-boat, Golden Hind.



THIS ENGLAND

Old Sossill Bridge, over St John's Beck, Keswick, Cumberland

LAND OF SHEEP WHO WAS HE?

The Ancient Inhabitants of the Pastures

GREAT BRITAIN is a great sheep country, and winter's toll of well over a million is an extremely severe blow.

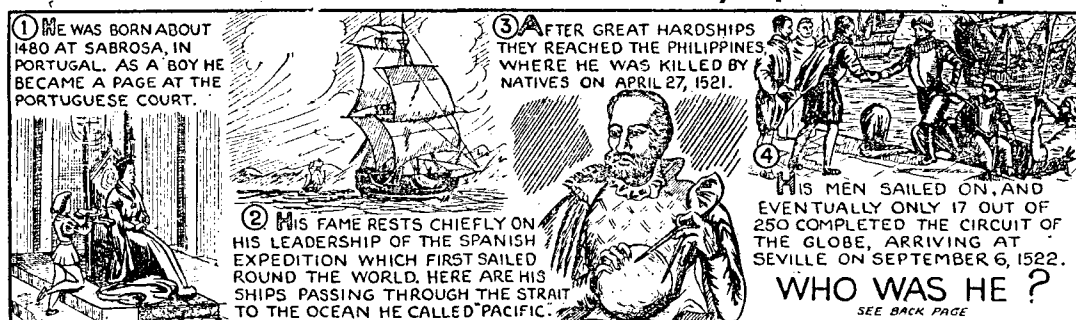
The collection was begun by the Roman invaders, who improved the breed they found here till they could send its wool home. The Saxons left the collection much as they found it, but the Norman invader so added to it that in the Middle Ages wool laid the foundation of England's prosperity. This was due in part to the peaceful penetration of another alien, the Flemish weaver who, supported by English shrewdness, converted the wool in Yorkshire, East Anglia, and the West Country into the unequalled English cloth.

The sheepmasters did not breed for wool alone but for meat, and so this country now has 30 to 40 recognised breeds. From among them comes Southdown, Scottish, and Welsh mutton—almost as unequalled as English cloth.

Other lands have entered the competition, for in the world there are some 700,000,000 sheep, and in the pride of numbers Great Britain comes after Australia, Russia, U.S.A., Argentina, New Zealand, and British India, though in Europe it is second to Russia only.

Other sheep-holding lands have vast acres over which to distribute their flocks. Great Britain packs 280 sheep to the square mile, a proportion equalled only by New Zealand. The U.S. raises only 14 to the square mile, and though in the absence of recent estimates we cannot answer for Argentina or Russia, or even for Australia, we can point out that while our little island numbers only 107,000 square miles Australia has nearly 3,000,000, though on the majority of them the hardest sheep would perish of drought.

WHO WAS HE?



A HOSPITAL IN SEARCH OF ITS HISTORY

THE world-famous St Thomas's Hospital, London, is in search of its history. The story of the hospital is being prepared for publication, but some of its records were destroyed by bombing during the war, and a public appeal has been made for the loan of documents or other information privately owned.

The hospital has a story extending over seven centuries and includes an event unknown to most people. Within the walls of St Thomas's Hospital was produced the first Bible in English ever printed in England.

Parts of the Bible had been printed in English abroad, but this, the first complete Bible in our language, the translation of

Miles Coverdale, Bishop of Exeter, was the supreme gift of the printing press to our ancestors. As its description states, it was "Imprynted in Southwarke, in St Thomas's Hospital, by James Nycolson," and dedicated to Henry VIII.

That, of course, was not the present building. The first St Thomas's was a tiny hospital built within the precincts of what was then known as the Priory of St Mary Overie, Southwark, and was dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr—Becket, whose death had occurred less than half a century earlier. Needing more fresh air and water, the monks transferred the hospital farther along the

Borough High Street, and it was in this second building that the printing press which gave us the Coverdale Bible was set up.

The hospital fell into decay and was rescued and refounded by charter by Edward VI. When the site it occupied was needed for railway extensions at London Bridge, it was sold for nearly £300,000, and before a new building could be erected St Thomas's was housed in what had been the music hall of the old Surrey Zoo at Kennington. Then came the purchase of the present site, facing Parliament.

Even should it be impossible to fill in all the gaps caused by bombs among the records, there remains a strange story.

A Time-Saving Tunnel Under the Tyne

IT is proposed to construct a new road traffic tunnel, with accompanying pedestrian tunnels, under the River Tyne below Newcastle at a cost of £3,600,000.

At present the last bridge over the Tyne, before the river reaches the North Sea, is at Newcastle. From there to the sea the river flows on for another 12 miles and can only be crossed by ferries. So, for instance, anyone travelling by road from South Shields, which is on the Durham side of the river's mouth, to Tynemouth, which is less than half a mile away across the

estuary, must go all round by one of the bridges at Newcastle—a journey of 17 miles.

It is proposed to construct the new set of three tunnels between Jarrow and Howden, four miles from the sea, where the river is about 840 feet wide. The large tunnel for vehicles will be about 4600 feet long, for the entrances to it will be over a quarter of a mile from the river banks and there will be gradual slopes down to the part of the tunnel beneath the river bed itself. This part of the tunnel must be far enough below the river bed to allow

dredgers, working on the river above, to keep its depth 40 to 50 feet under low-water mark so that sea-going vessels may reach Newcastle docks.

The two smaller tunnels for pedestrians and cyclists will be about 1000 feet long and from ten to 15 feet in diameter.

The proposed tunnel system will be a great boon to this busy north-eastern region. Buses will be able to ply quickly between the towns on both sides of the river, and through traffic to Northumberland and Scotland will be able to by-pass Newcastle.

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

A Drama of the Floods

THERE are millions of people with but little idea of what the floods have meant to those who live close to rivers which have surged uncontrolled far beyond their banks; and we give this extract from a letter written by a good C.N. friend, whose house is by the Trent, as a graphic description of the hazards of life which have of late been commonplace for countless thousands:

"We have been cut off from the world outside—no dry land even for my little Cairn, no electricity to pump up the water or warm the place or cook, no food (except the stock which I always keep in), and no postman."

"All the houses in our end of the district have had the water in through their windows, and the plight of the folk has been pitiful. Our garden is just devastated—one mass of mud and slime, and all the straw that has ever been grown I think. Our wonderful holly hedge has acted as a trap for the flood waters bringing its attendant litter. We are lucky, too, in another way, for my husband nearly did not come home again last Friday."

"He went to town in a dinghy in order to get bread for us and the lock people, and got into trouble where a swollen brook crosses the lane (already deep in flood) through a culvert. It was just a howling torrent, and it spun the boat like a cockle-shell. He saw visions of being carried off to the river, so jumped out and clung to a post up to the neck in water. He managed to keep the boat, and somehow pulled it out of the rushing water to a calmer patch, and after losing a scull and meeting more trouble in trying to get back a different way, reached home and is little worse for the experience. But he thought for a few horrid moments he was finished."

IVANHOE—Sir Walter Scott's Great Historical Romance, Told in Pictures

In the great hall at Templestowe innocent Rebecca was accused of being a witch and casting a spell over Bois Guilbert so that he fell in love with her. In those days people believed any fantastic story about witches. At this trial, judges and onlookers listened agape as

witnesses testified that the beautiful Jewess practised healing by means of black arts. The witnesses knew that the Grand Master of the Templars, Beaumanoir, wanted Rebecca found guilty so that Bois Guilbert, the Templars' greatest warrior, need not be disgraced for loving a

Jewess. One witness, who had been in the fight at Front-de-Boeuf's castle, said he had seen Rebecca heal a wounded man by repeating a magic spell over him. Another soldier said he had seen Rebecca change herself into a swan and fly round the castle!



Beaumanoir asked Rebecca whether she had anything to say before he sentenced her to be burned. Despairingly she appealed to Bois Guilbert. The knight murmured: "The scroll!" and she became aware of the slip of parchment someone had given her as she entered the hall. On it was written: "Demand a champion!"



Rebecca realised she had yet a chance—trial by combat. If she could find a knight to champion her and defeat the one selected to fight for the Templars, then she would be, by their laws, adjudged innocent. "I demand trial by combat," she said, and threw down her glove.



Bois Guilbert had expected that one of the lesser knights would be selected to fight for the Templars. Then he intended disguising himself as a roving knight and appearing in the lists as Rebecca's champion. He knew he could beat any knight at Templestowe. But, to his consternation now, he was chosen to fight against her champion!



He was in despair. By defeating Rebecca's champion he would be condemning her to death. Later, his friend Malvoisin assured him Rebecca would never find a champion. If no champion appeared to fight for her she must die; but Bois Guilbert would not then be to blame.

Will a knight be found to champion the cause of Rebecca? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, April 19, 1947

CN BOOKSHELF



Story of a Great Discovery

Miracle Drug, by David Masters (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 10s 6d).

THE reader has probably guessed right. *Miracle Drug* is penicillin; and in this book is told the whole romantic story from the finding of the mould to the production of pure penicillin.

The three names most widely known in connection with penicillin are Sir Alexander Fleming, Sir Howard Florey, and Dr E. B. Chain; but with these men in the search for the miracle drug were many other scientists. To get his story David Masters went direct to the men who made the miracle; and if at times the narrative tends to become rather technical it moves dramatically always, with the reader anxious to learn what happens next.

Teatime

Boodoo and Sookoo (A Tea Centre Publication, 2s 6d).

HERE is a simply-told little story of an Indian family who work on a tea estate in Assam, with several pictures in colour by Sylvia Ball. While being entertained the young reader will learn something about tea.

Rocket Journeys

Dawn of the Space Age, by Harry Harper (Sampson Low, Marston, 8s 6d).

FOLLOWING the Railway Age of quickened communications between towns we have the Airways Age, which has already made the Earth a smaller place. Next, we are told, we shall have the Space Age giving communication with other worlds.

In this book, after telling the story of the rocket in past ages—and it is far older than many would believe—Mr Harper tells of the plans of the Rocket men for conquering outer space, with a trip to the Moon as a first stage on the way to Mars and Venus.

Fantastic? Maybe; but it is not claimed that such journeys will be made within the next few years. Many and complicated are the problems to be solved, but men are already thinking that way; and one cannot fail to be thrilled.

A Moving Story

Rip Van Winkle, Animated by Julian Wehr (Pilot Press, 6s).

YOUNGER readers who enjoyed the CN's pictured version of *Rip Van Winkle* will also like this little book, distinguished by jolly coloured pictures with figures which, by an ingenious arrangement, can be made to move by the reader. We think Washington Irving would have delighted in this novel treatment of his famous story.

Other Books Received

Stories From the Bible, by Walter de la Mare, new illustrated edition (Faber, 12s 6d).

The Valley of Adventure by Enid Blyton (Macmillan, 7s 6d).

The Bookworm's Nightmare, and other children's plays, by F. A. Lea (Jason Press, 5s).

Missionary Heroes in Many Lands (National Sunday School Union, 4s 6d).

Land of Ice and Fire

A NEW chapter is being added to the thousand years of history recorded of Hekla, the great volcano in Iceland. With those of Etna and Vesuvius, these records of eruptions are the most complete in existence.

Dating from the ninth century, when Norway first colonised the island, these records show that there has never been an interval of more than 40 years, during the last eight centuries, without either a major earthquake or volcanic eruption in Iceland. This time both have occurred, accompanied by lava-flow, smoke miles high, and dust spreading to all points of the compass.

Hekla has a hundred fellow-volcanoes in the island, more than 40 of them active, and these, geologists say, act as safety valves for the area in which the British Isles lie. But for them we might have many Heklas spouting in our midst. Lying partly within the Arctic Circle, with its multitude of volcanoes, with hot springs and geysers of steam and boiling water gushing everywhere, Iceland, its heart afire, is one of the world's wonderlands. It is nearly 50,000 square miles in area, and the home of 130,000 splendid people, centred about the more favoured parts of the coast and valleys, where, although all grain has to be imported, cattle, sheep, and ponies thrive in great numbers. The Icelanders are themselves highly cultured, and have produced magnificent literature.

Yet they live, these Icelanders, next door to perpetual terror and frightfulness. Lava fields, thousands of square miles in extent, scar the uninhabitable

interior, where immense snow-fields and glaciers form on the volcanoes as they slumber, to melt in time of eruption, and cause disastrous floods. During periods of subterranean violence old hills and lakes are swallowed up, and new hills and new lakes are created, while off the coast established islands vanish, and new islands are thrust up out of the sea.

One of the volcanoes created two separate rivers of lava, the first 50 miles long, the other 40, the amount of material ejected being estimated to exceed the entire mass of Mont Blanc, Europe's greatest mountain, nearly 16,000 feet high. The volume of the dust storms such as that recently created by Hekla may be gauged by an experience of the British trawler, *Prince Palatine*, steaming in the Atlantic 25 years ago.

Suddenly overtaken by what they thought to be a sandstorm, the crew voyaged for 64 hours through what seemed an imitation London fog. The vessel was thickly coated with dust, which proved to be volcanic glass, blown from an Icelandic volcano 500 miles away.

How long the present eruption may last no man can predict, but Hekla, which until last month had been practically at peace for a century, has been known to smoke and spout for six years without cessation.

VENUS, JUPITER, AND SATURN

THE planet Venus that has for so long adorned the early morning sky is now much less in evidence (writes the CN Astro-nomer), for she rises only about one hour before the Sun. She is still, however, a very brilliant object and cannot be mistaken, even though she is low in the south-east amid the rising dawn. On the mornings of April 17 and 18 the crescent Moon will appear close to Venus and will add to the charm of the scene.

At present Venus is about 112 million miles from us and is rapidly receding and speeding at a much quicker pace ahead of

this, the greatest of the planets. At present he is about 420 million miles away, but later on he will be nearer and will be seen to better advantage. Jupiter will then rise earlier and will appear higher in the southern sky. As seen through a telescope Jupiter's cloud-belted disc appears more than three times the width of that of Venus, and is far more interesting with its ever-changing details.

As soon as the sky is dark enough Saturn may be found very high in the south-west sky, almost in line with the stars Castor and Pollux. This striking arrangement will not remain for long, however, for Saturn is now speeding eastward, as indicated by the arrow on the star-map, which shows his apparent movement during the next two months. After this Saturn will become difficult to perceive in the twilight, as he recedes farther from us to the remote regions of his orbit beyond the Sun. At present Saturn is about 820 million miles away and soon will be twice as far as Jupiter, an enormous distance. Compare this, however, with the distances of the stars Castor and Pollux, which appear to our unaided eyes so similar to Saturn. Light takes about one hour and fifteen minutes to reach us from where Saturn is now; but from the great sun Pollux it takes about 33 years, and from the two suns composing Castor it takes about 45 years to reach us. Yet these suns are among the relatively near "neighbours" of our Sun!

G. F. M.



Saturn's progress during the next two months.

the Earth; so we shall see very little more of Venus this year. Seen through a telescope she now appears like a small gibbous moon, but this will grow smaller and rounder as she travels far beyond the Sun.

Jupiter, on the other hand, is approaching us and is coming into better position for observation in the evening sky, where he may be seen low in the south-east between ten and eleven o'clock and later. Being much the brightest object in that region, there can be no mistaking

QUALITY

FLAVOUR

BERMALINE
BREAD
is Baked

BY APPOINTED BAKERS

PURITY

DIGESTIBILITY

WANTED

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of an empty Brooke Bond Coffee Essence bottle is asked to collect it and hand it over to the grocer, who will pay 1d. for each one.

True, the reward isn't big, but the virtue of a good deed is often a reward in itself. By collecting these bottles, you will be really helping in the national bottle-shortage emergency.

Every single bottle counts.

Brooke Bond
Coffee & Chicory Essence

Here's a fine box of



...and they don't cost very much!

SIXTEEN good quality water colours in the familiar japanned metal box, together with brush. Limited number only: make sure of yours by sending for box of "Suprema" Paints, to-day, enclosing postal order, to: ANDREW HART & CO. 36 Hatfield Court, London, N.16. **BOX 16 COLOURS 6/3 POST FREE**



PERFECTION of CONFECTIONS!

HEALTH IS NATIONAL INSURANCE

and with our Youth Organisations we are doing our utmost to build up our boys and girls for the place they must take later as responsible citizens. Will you please help us? We sorely need your aid. Address: The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLON, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.

"Tom Thumb" is "At Home" on Stand J2229 at the B.I.F., in the Empire Hall, Olympia.



MODERN
LITERATURE
808 Harrow Road, London, N.W.10.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Would you like to see a little fox-cub torn to pieces by hounds for the gratification of hunting folk?

If not, write for information "League Against Cruel Sports," 58, Maddox Street, London, W.1

BERTIE AT WEMBLEY: The 'Final' Favourite



THE BRAN TUB

WARM CORNER

"This office is like an oven!"
"So it should be—it's where I make my daily bread."

Rhymes to Month

CAN you find a rhyme to month? Here is a little girl's attempt:
I can get a rhyme to month,
I can thay it now, I thaid it wunth.

Here is another one:
Search through the works of Thackeray,
You'll find a rhyme to month;
He tells us of Phil Fogarty,
Of the fighting onety-oneth.

NOT TOO EASY

YOU will catch many of your friends with this simple little question. Quite casually ask your friend what is a half of two and two. He is almost sure to say two, but you explain that the answer is three—a half of two being one, and two making three.

Sage Saw

THE night is long that never comes to day.

ABSENT-MINDED

A FORGETFUL professor of Tottenham
Took his boys on a visit to Cottenham;
But on reaching the station,
He found with vexation,
He had stupidly gone and forgotten 'em.

Tongue Twister

THE rollicking roadster rode roughly round the road roundabout.

BEDTIME CORNER

Harold's Lucky Find

HAROLD was a keen stamp collector. He spent all his spare time poring over old treasures in his album, and pasting in new ones. There were not many of these, for money had to be spent on more important things; Mrs Franklin was a widow, and found it hard sometimes to "make ends meet."

One day she brought home a book she had bought for a few pence at a second-hand shop. It was all about collecting stamps.

"Oh, thanks, Mother! Just what I wanted!" cried Harold. He spent a happy evening reading by the fire. Suddenly he gave an excited exclamation, and showed his mother a stamp lying between the pages.

"This is a very rare one," said Harold knowingly. "I never thought I should have the luck even to see one of those. If I don't win the scholarship," he added thoughtfully, "we could sell this stamp, and that would help with the school fees."

Mrs Franklin smiled.

"If the stamp is really valuable," she said, "I think your duty is to find out who was the previous owner of the book." Harold's face fell; this was a disappointment indeed.

Next day he and his



Jacko was experimenting with the bellows in the wash-tub.

Easily Done

How can a leopard change its spots? By walking from one spot to another.

FOR OBVIOUS REASONS

A TEACHER taking a class of boys in arithmetic asked:

"Which would you rather have—three paper bags containing two oranges each, or two paper bags with three oranges in each?"

All the boys but one, after considering the matter, decided that they were indifferent; but Harry said he would prefer three bags with two oranges in each.

"Why?" asked the teacher.

"Because there would be more bags to burst," came the reply.

THE RIVALS

"A HA," said Mr Bellows, "the West Wind's at his game; See him swirling all about, you cannot call him tame.

He's certainly very breezy, and makes a great to-do,

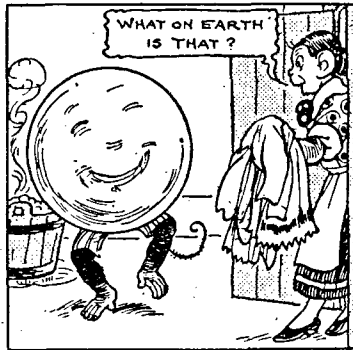
But if you want your fire blown up then I'm the man for you."



and that book on collecting stamps has been lying in the shop ever since. I should say," he added, with a twinkle at Harold, "that stamp is yours, young man, and fairly come by."

Harold's conscience was satisfied, and that stamp is the most prized treasure in his collection—for he heard next day that he had won the scholarship, after all!

Jacko Has Bubble Trouble



"Looks like the man in the Moon," thought Mother Jacko as she entered.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Warm Weather Skaters. "The last time I was here the pond was covered with skaters," remarked Don to Farmer Gray.

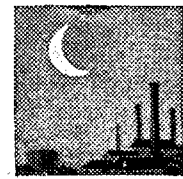
"There are a good many Skaters on the pond now, although of a different sort," said the farmer.

Don glanced at the sunlit water, where numerous insects were scurrying about. "Odd how they are able to run on the water!" he exclaimed.

"Water has a thin skin on its surface," retorted the farmer. "Some insects are so light that they can roam this skin without breaking it. Water-gnats walk across, but the Pond-skaters use their legs, and propel themselves along as though rowing a boat."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south-east, and Saturn is in the south-west. In the morning Venus is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8.30 DBST on the morning of Thursday, April 17.



Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, April 16, to Tuesday, April 22.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Tusker Finds His Temper; Young Artists; Sound Quiz. North, 5.0 Your Own Ideas; Young Artists from Belle Vue Zoo. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Peter Comes in From the Farm; An Irish Legend; Young Artists. Scottish, 5.0 Your Own Choice; Ella the Umbrella; a talk on Kruger National Park.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Drowsy Dormouse (Part 3). 5.15 The House of Arden (Part 5). North, 5.0 African Pets. Scottish, 5.0 A very young story; The Adventures of Tumbles.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Pacific Island. Northern Ireland, 5.0 My Dog Tinker; The Fairy Glen Sports Meeting, another Panjandorum story.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety; Pencil and Paper. Midland, 5.0 Children's Magazine; Gladys Slater (songs); Putting the Stripes in Humbugs. West, 5.0 Grump Drives a Tractor; Once a Month. 5.45 Hobby-horse, Boneshaker, and Bicycle.

SUNDAY, 5.0 John Pym; West of England Singers.

MONDAY, 5.0 The House at Pooh Corner (Part 4). 5.25 He Sang to a Small Guitar. 5.40 For Your Bookshelf.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The House That Stood on Its Head; Rudy Starita (xylophone); Plimssole Otter Meets a Moibat. 5.40 The National Gallery. Scottish, 5.0 The Wandering Otter (Part 3); The Story of the Forth River; a talk about Maps.



Then the "heavenly body" burst and revealed a very wet Jacko.

Catch Question

WHAT burns to keep a secret?

The Children's Newspaper, April 19, 1947

BEHEADING

ALL little children love to play with me. When I'm with men tis work with brawny arm. Cut off my head, and find a different thing. Built up with care on almost every farm. Answer next week

Who Was He?

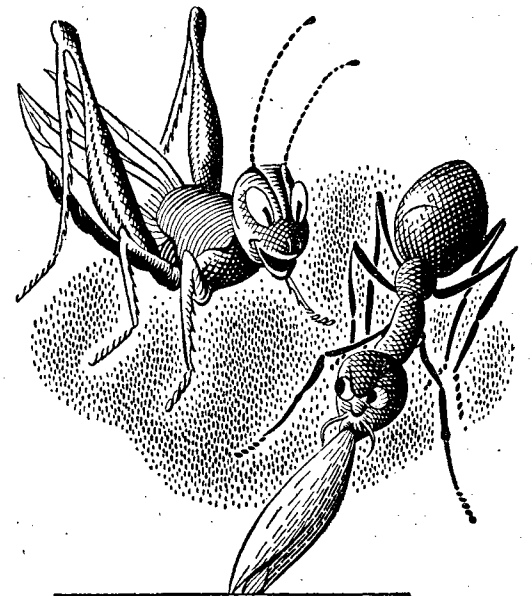
THE man in the picture-story on page 6 was Ferdinand Magellan.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Anagram. Ears, sear, rare.

PAINT	DOR
ASS	OLIVE
NIL	SEDAN
DENSE	E
METE	CREW
A	ASHEN
STORE	PUT
TENSE	ARE
SEE	DOYEN

ÆSOP-TO-DATE



THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

A happy-go-lucky Grasshopper one day beheld an Ant struggling with an ear of corn that it was dragging to its nest. The Grasshopper laughed the industrious insect to scorn, and went dancing and singing on his way. "You wait," said the Ant, to himself. "The time is coming when you will be very envious of the store that I have put by for my future enjoyment. And I—how glad I shall be that I kept on saving!"

To-day's Moral to this Savings Fable is:

When you see someone frittering away their money on things that don't last, you may well say to yourself, "How much cleverer to go on saving. For the time will come when my little store of Savings will enable me to buy something I really want."

NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS

Issued by the National Savings Committee.